

Parke-Ridgely House  
The Green  
Dover  
Kent County  
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-144

HABS  
DEL.  
1-DOV,  
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWING

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

## PARKE-RIDGELY HOUSE

1-Dov  
5-

Location: The Green, Dover, Kent County, Delaware

Present Owner: Mrs. Herman Ridgely

Brief Statement of Significance: Built in three stages during the eighteenth century, this large, carefully finished house is representative of the best craftsmanship of the period.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Ridgely house, facing The Green in Dover, was built in 1728. It is a two-story-and-attic brick structure, originally of four-bay width. An addition in 1767, at the west end, made a frontage six bays wide. The rear wing was added in 1764.

The brickwork of the south front, facing The Green, is laid in Flemish bond with black headers. The west and east walls are stuccoed over the brickwork.

In the original structure, the rooms have admirable paneling and other woodwork characteristic of the period.

The plan of the house, as first built, is the pre-Georgian plan that came into southern Delaware from Maryland and Virginia. It corresponds exactly with the plan of an early house at St. Mary's City, a natural precedent for the Southern builder to follow. The plan also coincides in fundamental features with the plan of Resurrection Manor, in St. Mary's County, Maryland (late Mediaeval plan -- 1652-54), and likewise with the plan of the original part of White Meadow Farm, in Sussex County --- the said fundamental features being one large oblong room with a fireplace, beside which a winding stair (closed off by a door above the lower steps) ascended to the several bedrooms above. Additions to this plan might consist of one or, oftentimes, two adjacent "added" rooms opening off from the one original oblong room.

In many instances ---- as at the Ridgely house ---- the "added" rooms adjoining the oblong nucleus were built

at the outset. The library or sitting-room at the Ridgely house represents the oblong nucleus; the present parlour and the dining room open from it respectively at the east end and the north side.

Thomas Parke, who built the house, was apparently of the Parke and Custis Virginia connection. He was High Sheriff of Kent County from 1758 to 1760.

In 1767 Dr. Charles Greenberry Ridgely moved into the house on The Green and bought it from Thomas Parke's estate. It was at this time that the western addition was made, affording the Doctor suitable office rooms, on the ground floor, away from the rest of the house.

Ever since 1767 the house has been in possession of the Ridgely family.

There have been some subsequent interior changes.

Prepared by Harold Donaldson Eberlein  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
June 1960

Parke-Ridgely House (Ridgely House)  
7 The Green  
Dover  
Kent County  
Delaware

HABS No. DE-144

Addendum to  
Parke-Ridgely House  
The Green  
Dover  
Kent County  
Delaware

HABS  
DEL,  
1-DOV,  
5-

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Mid-Atlantic Region, National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106